

CLAIMS

1. A tool for setting a gap between a pair of panels including a first panel movably attached at a first mounting location and a second panel fixedly attached at a second mounting location, the panels being spaced apart to define a gap between the panels, comprising:
 - a first body portion adapted to be releasably attached to the first panel,
 - a second body portion adapted to be releasably attached to the second panel; and
 - a pin having a predetermined diameter, said first body portion, said second body portion and said pin being attached to and movable relative to one another,whereby when said first and second body portions are each attached to the respective first and second panels and said pin extends into the gap between the panels, said second body portion is moved relative to the first body portion until the first and second panels contact the pin thereby setting the gap at said predetermined diameter.
2. The tool according to claim 1 wherein said pin is disposed between a pair of springs in an aperture formed in said first body portion.
3. The tool according to claim 1 including an actuator for moving said first and second body portions relative to one another.
4. The tool according to claim 3 including an air source for supplying compressed air to actuate said actuator.

5. The tool according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said body portions has a vacuum cup to releasably attach to a respective body panel.

6. The tool according to claim 5 including a vacuum source for supplying a vacuum to said vacuum cup.

7. The tool according to claim 1 including a control panel for controlling the movement of said body portions and for controlling the attachment of said body portions to the body panels.

8. A tool assembly for setting a gap between a pair of panels including a first panel movably attached at a first mounting location and a second panel fixedly attached at a second mounting location, the panels being spaced apart to define a gap between the panels, comprising:

- a first tool having a first body portion adapted to be releasably attached to the first panel, a second body portion adapted to be releasably attached to the second panel, and a pin having a predetermined diameter, said first body portion, said second body portion and said pin being attached to and movable relative to one another;

- a second tool having a first body portion adapted to be releasably attached to the first panel, a second body portion adapted to be releasably attached to the second panel, and a pin having a predetermined diameter, said first body portion, said second body portion and said pin being attached to and movable relative to one another;

- a connector member extending between and connecting said first tool and said second tool;

a control panel attached to said connector member for controlling the movement of said body portions and the attachment of said body portions to the panels,

whereby when each of said first and second body portions are attached to the respective first and second panels and each of said pins extends into the gap between the panels, each of said second body portions is moved relative to the first body portions until the first and second panels contact the pin thereby setting the gap at said predetermined diameter.

9. The tool assembly according to claim 8 wherein at least one of said body portions on said first tool and said second tool has a vacuum cup to releasably attach to a respective body panel.

10. The tool assembly according to claim 8 including a handle extending from said connector member.

11. The tool assembly according to claim 8 including an eyebolt extending from said connector member.

12. A method for setting a gap between a pair of panels comprising the steps of:

- a) providing at least one gap setting tool having a first body portion, a second body portion and a pin having a predetermined diameter, the first body portion and the second body portion and the pin being movable relative to one another;
- b) inserting the pin into a gap between a first panel and a second panel, at least one of said panels being movably mounted;
- c) attaching the first body portion to the first panel and attaching the second body portion to the second panel;

- d) moving the body portion attached to the at least one movably mounted panel relative to the other one of the body portions until an edge of each of the first and second panels contacts the pin; and
- e) fixedly mounting the at least one movably mounted panel spaced from the other one of the panels by the predetermined diameter.

13. The method according to claim 12 wherein steps a) through e) are performed by a single operator.

14. The method according to claim 12 including after step e) performing a step f) of detaching the first body portion from the first panel and detaching the second body portion from the second panel.

15. The method according to claim 12 wherein step d) is performed by an actuator attached to the body portions of the gap setting tool.

16. The method according to claim 12 wherein step c) is performed by attaching a vacuum cup on each body portion to each panel.

17. The method according to claim 12 wherein steps c) and d) are controlled by a control panel.

18. The method according to claim 12 wherein step d) is performed manually.

19. The method according to claim 12 including providing another gap setting tool with said at least one gap setting tool in step a) and operating said at least one gap setting tool and said another gap setting tool together in steps b) through e).

20. The method according to claim 12 wherein in step b) each of the panels is movably mounted and step e) is performed by fixedly mounting the first panel and the second panel.